

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02669 190713Z

ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-08 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 190618Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 235

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND ANDERSON

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN--JAPANESE BEEF TALKS

1. THE CONSULTATION TALKS ON BEEF BETWEEN SENIOR AUST. AND JAPANESE OFFICIALS HELD IN CANBERRA LAST WEEK PRODUCED NO FIRM RESULTS. THIS WAS EXPECTED AS THE JAPANESE MISSION WAS HERE TO CONSULT AND NOT TO NEGOTIATE. HOWEVER, AUST. OFFICIALS WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE TALKS AS THE MESSAGE CONVEYED WAS THAT JAPAN MAY AGAIN CUT BEEF IMPORTS. MR. SINCLAIR, MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY, TOLD THE PRESS AFTER THE MEETINGS THAT JAPAN WAS CONTINUING TO BE AN UNRELIABLE IMPORTER OF AUST. BEEF DESPITE ASSURANCES GIVEN AT THE LAST MINISTERIAL MEETING IN TOKYO IN JANUARY. HE REFUSED TO GIVE ANY DETAILS SAYING THE TALKS WERE A CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS, THE JAPANESE TEAM STARTED BY POINTING OUT THAT THERE WAS MOUNTING PRESSURE IN JAPAN TO CUT BEEF IMPORTS. USING A SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS, THEY EXPLAINED (PROTETD AUST. SOURCE), THAT DOMESTIC BEEF PRODUCTION WAS EX-
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PECTED TO INCREASE BY 10 PERCENT AND CONSUMPTION BY ONLY 7 PERCENT, THUS NARROWING THE GAP FOR IMPORTED BEEF DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING APRIL 1. THEY ALSO HINTED THAT IMPORTS OF CHILLED BEEF MAY HAVE TO BE CUT BACK SINCE THERE WAS NO EFFECTIVE WAY OF CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF THIS BEEF ON TO THE MARKET. THE PROPORTION OF FROZEN BEEF WOULD HAVE TO BE INCREASED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE LIPC'S PRICE STABILIZATION PROGRAM

WORK.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE LEVEL OF THE QUOTA FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE 1977 FISCAL YEAR IS TO BE MADE IN TOKYO BEFORE THE END OF APRIL. BASED ON SPECULATION HERE FOLLOWING THE TALKS, THE FIRST HALF QUOTA COULD BE REDUCED TO AS LOW AS 30,000 TO 35,000 MT, COMPARED TO 45,000 MT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO. SHARP POLITICAL REACTION CAN BE EXPECTED FROM HERE IF THE QUOTA IS REDUCED AT ALL, LET ALONE THAT MUCH, AS AUST. NORMALLY SUPPLIES ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THAT MARKET.
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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